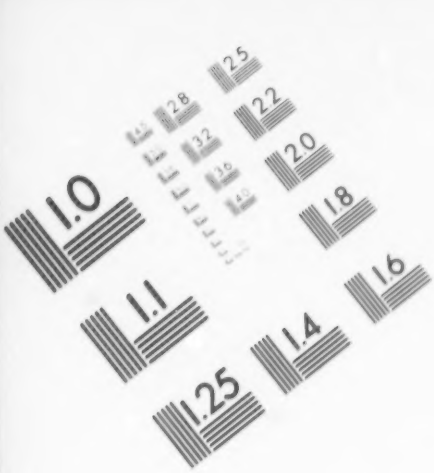

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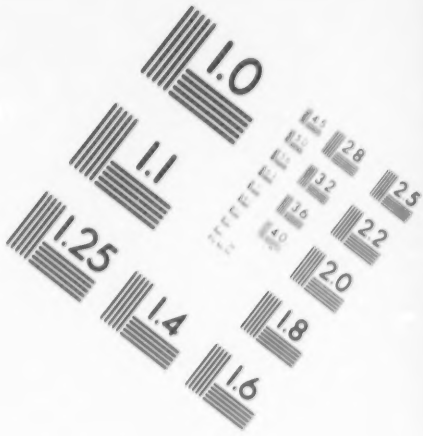

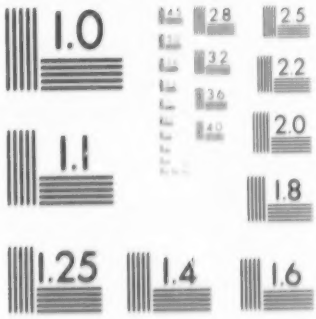

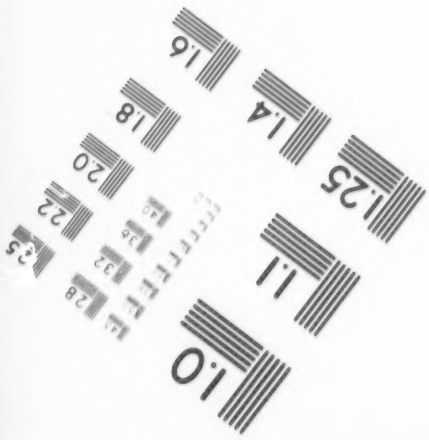

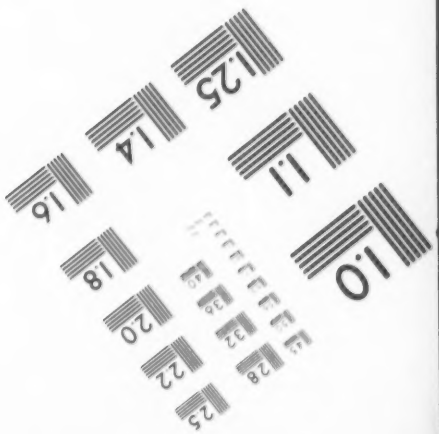

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ABSTRACT

Libraries in Louisiana strengthen the economy and serve the people. Libraries and their employees play a significant role in the Louisiana infrastructure, consuming state goods and services, complementing educational institutions, creating a literate citizenry, and providing cost effective access to information for business, industry, government officials and employees, private citizens, and students. This pamphlet summarizes the economic and service impact of Louisiana public and academic libraries in 1996, providing data and statistics on topics including: the value of the state's public and academic library collections; taxes derived from library employees; library operating and collection development expenditures; costs of renovations; grants; literacy and unemployment rates; per capita public library expenditures; role of public libraries in Louisiana; number of visits to public libraries, number of library cards, and number of books borrowed; access; operating hours; and voter support for Louisiana libraries. The pamphlet also covers the role and services of the State Library of Louisiana. (SWC)

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LOUISIANA LIBRARIES

A Report on the Economic and Service Impact of Louisiana Libraries

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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Prepared by the

State Library of Louisiana
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

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Economic Impact—1996
Libraries Strengthen the Economy

Libraries and their employees play a significant role in the Louisiana infrastructure, consuming state goods and services, complementing educational institutions, creating a literate citizenry, and providing cost effective access to information for business, industry, government officials and employees, private citizens, and students.

- A conservative estimate of the combined value of the state's public and academic library collections is **$1.89 billion**.
- In 1995, Louisiana's 4,148 'full time equivalent' public and academic library employees paid state taxes on income and recycled over **$52.8 million** directly into the Louisiana economy.
- Louisiana's public and academic library operating expenditures totaled **$113.1 million** last year.
- Last year Louisiana public and academic libraries spent more than **$31 million** to purchase books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials from suppliers, many of whom have physical facilities or representatives in Louisiana.
- Last year Louisiana public libraries spent **$13.4 million** on renovations and new construction.
- Since 1986, Louisiana public libraries have obtained almost **$250,000 annually** in federal grants to help fund library tutorial reading programs to combat illiteracy.
- Peripheral services for libraries also strengthen the Louisiana business and employment climate. They include buildings and grounds maintenance, employee benefits and health care, office supplies and services, telecommunications, and utilities.
- Louisiana libraries provide access to print and nonprint materials, including information obtained through the Internet and through a myriad of other automated information databases.
- Libraries can play a pivotal role in both the educational and the economic well-being of an individual, a community, and the state. Libraries provide materials and programs, including literacy programs, to help educate and retrain people, and they provide information on job and career opportunities, as well as business and investment information. But much more remains to be done.

Consider. . .

- More than 24% of Louisiana's adults cannot read, up from 16% in 1989.
- Louisiana's illiteracy rate compounds the state's unemployment problem and attendant social problems.
- Louisiana's current unemployment rate is 6.8%.
- More than 26% of the population lives below the poverty level, 48% of whom are illiterate, and only 36% of whom are employed, most (22%) part time.
- The current state labor force participation rate is 60%—lower than the national rate of 66%.
- Louisiana ranks third highest in the nation in crime.

Education and economic opportunities are the only answer. Libraries can help by providing access to the world of information.

- Louisiana public libraries spent an average of only $14.23 a person last year to provide citizens with this full range of information services, well below the $19.16 national average.

Service Impact—1996
Libraries Serve the People

- In Louisiana, there are 321 public and 31 academic libraries (total 352) plus 33 bookmobiles.

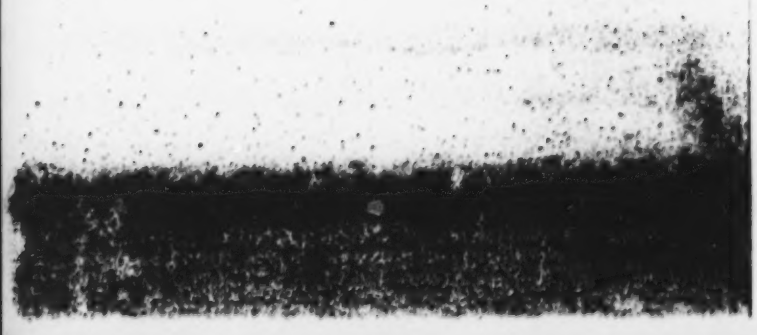
- Meeting the people's informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs is the business of Louisiana libraries.

- Louisiana libraries provide information to corporations, businesses, scholars, students, legislators, government officials and employees, and other residents.

- Resource sharing and networking by the state's 352 public and academic libraries offer Louisiana residents access to **21.5 million** books or 5 books for every man, woman, and child in the state.

- The U.S. Department of Education found that 810.8 million visits were made to the nation's public libraries last year. Nearly **8,600,000** of those visits were to Louisiana's public libraries.

- More than **2.1 million** Louisiana residents hold public library cards and last year borrowed **19.2 million** books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials, more than 4.4 items a person. Children alone borrowed **6.5 million** books.



- Louisiana libraries offer special programs targeting specific age groups and special needs. In 1995, almost 85,000 school children registered for the Louisiana Summer Reading Program and, during the program, read more than 1.2 million books. In addition, over one-half million (500,000) children attended activities in Louisiana's public libraries last year.

- Of the 321 Louisiana public libraries, almost all provide access and facilities for handicapped patrons.

- Public libraries are open year round, at night, on weekends, and during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holiday seasons, providing services to students and other patrons.

- Louisiana residents appreciate the benefits of their public libraries and are offering strong voter support. Of the eight funding proposals on the ballot in 1995 (each for a tax increase), all passed by an average margin of 66%. In the last several years, three public library construction bond issues totaling $17.5 million also passed by an average 66% margin.

State Library of Louisiana

The State Library of Louisiana promotes, advocates, and consistently works to achieve the highest possible level of service to meet the information needs of Louisiana residents. To this end, the State Library performs the following services:

- Maintains technical and specialized collections supporting the business of state government, supplementing parish library collections, and complementing libraries in Louisiana's colleges and universities.

- Provides information and distributes materials from its collection of over 800,000 items and from the collections of other libraries throughout the nation through interlibrary loan to state officials and employees and the general public.

- Provides leadership in the coordination of library services and resource sharing by all types of libraries in the state—academic, public, special, and school—to provide for optimum utility and equality of access.

- Continues leadership in the development of the Louisiana Library Network (LLN)and in the provision of Internet connections in all public libraries and in many schools.

- Provides in-depth reference and research services to those in state government and the general public using its extensive resources of printed materials and automated databases including those on the Internet.

- Developed and administers the nation's first resource sharing network using computers and CD-ROM technology.

- Provides consultative and technical assistance to state agencies in the collection and maintenance of their resource materials; administers the Louisiana Government Information Network (LaGIN) for state agencies; participates in the national State Data Center program; and participates in the Louisiana Geographic Information System (GIS).

- Administers the Louisiana State Documents Depository Program and serves as a federal documents depository.

- Administers federal grants to public libraries, last year awarding $761,023.

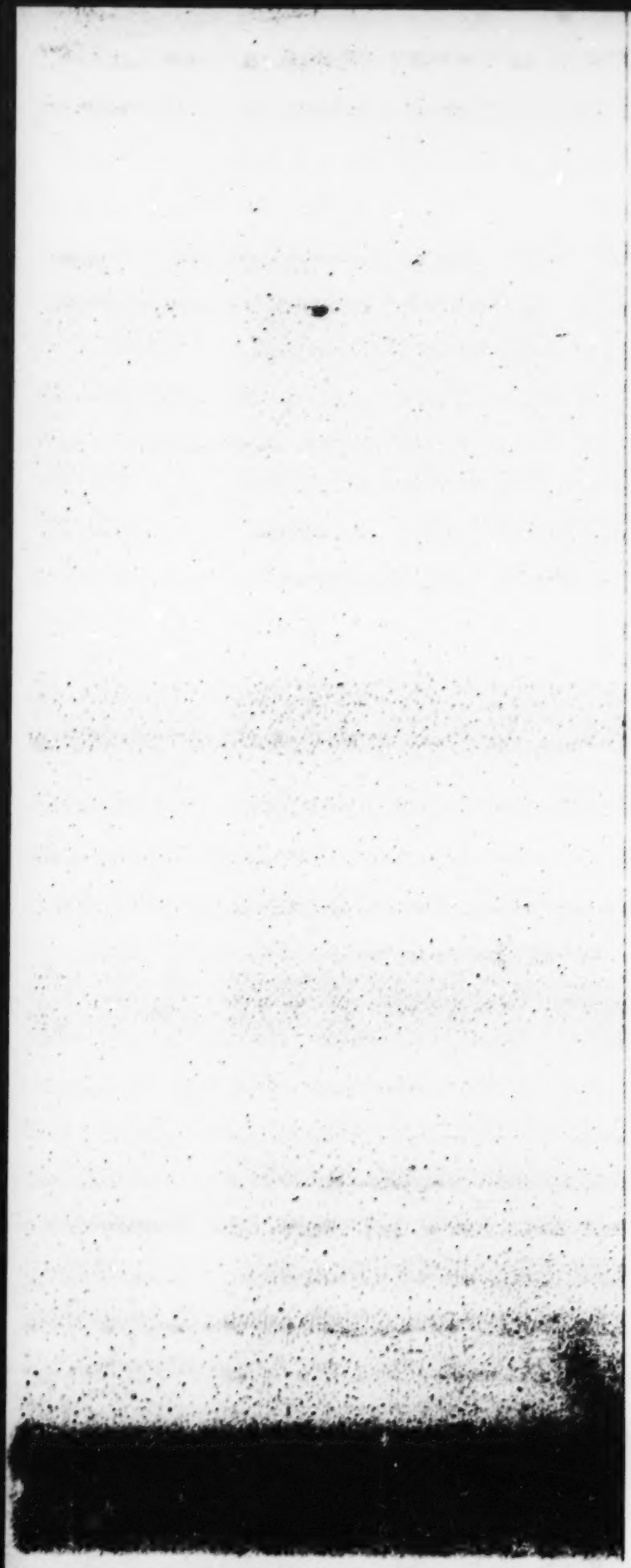
- Supports the development and improvement of public and parish libraries through consultative, educational, resource sharing, and long range planning assistance.

- Establishes and supervises library services in the state's health and correctional institutions.

- Serves directly the needs of the state's blind and physically handicapped, last year circulating 140,870 items (disk, cassette, braille and large print materials) to 3,657 blind and physically handicapped residents.

- Actively participates in the war against illiteracy by providing print and computer program literacy materials, guidance to public libraries applying for federal literacy grants, and training workshops for literacy tutors.

From: *Public Libraries in Louisiana: Statistical Report 1994; Statistical Report of Public Libraries in the United States: 1993; Academic Libraries: 1992; State of the State 1995: Louisiana Employment Projections; Occupational Outlook Quarterly;* and the Louisiana Department of Labor. *GFS/15/96*



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